THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA); (a) The oldest equipment available in automatic exchange (MAX-II) Rampur was installed in July, 1963. The equipment to replace the existing exchange is proposed to be allotted during 7th Five-Year Plan.

(b) No Sir, the telephone exchange has been provided with window-type airconditioners.

(c) Indian Crossbar type exchange equipment is proposed to be allotted during 1987-88 to replace the existing exchange equipment.

Electronic Telephone Exchanges

1749. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR SAHU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of electro nic telephone exchanges opened so far in the country;

(b) what is the number of such exchanges functioning, State-wise; and

(c) what are the criteria for setting up of the electronic exchanges and how many such exchanges are likely to be opened during the next year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA); (a) The number of electronic telephone exchanges opened so far in the country is 26.

(b)

State	No. of exchanges functioning
1	2
Gujarat	2
Haryana	2
Maharashtra	4
Delhi	6
West Bengal	1
Tamil Nadu	2
Uttar Pradesh	5
Andhra	1
Manipur	1
Assam	1
Kerala	1
	26

(c) In view of limited availability of electronic equipments, the present criteria to allot electronic equipments is as follows:

(i) Metropolitan cities.

(ii) Major telephone systems.

(iii) Towns where electronic trunk automatic exchanges have been sanctioned.

(iv) Other towns.

Fifteen new exchanges are likely to be opened in 1985-86.

Sarin Committee's suggestion

1750. SHRI JERLIE E. TARIANG: Will the Minister of COMMUNICA,-TIONS be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred Question 218 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 6th August, 1984 and state how far the Sixth Five Year Plan targets regarding the setting up of Telephone Exchanges and production of telephone instruments have been achieved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA); With reference to earlier reply, updated information is furnisheds | in the annexure.

Annexure

Details of achievements during 6th Five Year Plan in respect of Telephone Exchange and telephone connections

Item	No. of Telephone Exchanges (Nos.)	No. of telephone lines (Lakhs)	Telephone instruments produced in I.T.T.
1. Status as on 1-4-80	7130	20.16	..
2. Status as on 31-3-85	10708	28.98	..
3. Achievement during 6th Five Year Plan (1980-85) .	3278	8.82	3049800
4. Targets of 6th Five Year Plan	3580	*13.30	3525000
5. Percentage achievements during 6th Five Years Plan .	93.66%	*66.32%	86.52%

NOTE:—*Allocations against proposed outlays were substantially reduced and pro-rata target on that basis comes to only 11.00 Lakh DELS fixing target achievements of round 80%. Higher target was retained on the premise that additional allocations might become available. After allowing for inflation actual expenditure in real terms was around 84% only.

Opening of post offices

1751. DR. MOHD. HASHIM KIDWAI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased ta state:

(a) what is the number of post offices, sub-post offices branch post offices and public telephone call offices in U.P.; and

(b) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration for opening new post offices/branch post offices/sub-post offices and public call offices in U.P. during the year 1985-86 and what are the norms prescribed for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) 87 Head Post Offices, 4226 Sub Post Offices, 7141 Branch Post Offices and 3486 Long Distance Public Telephones were functioning in UP. as on 31-3-1985.

(b) 212 branch post offices and 200 long distance public telephones are proposed to be opened during the year 1985-86. The establishment of L.D.P.T. accessible within 5 Kms. of most habitations in the country by 1990 is adopted as the policy objective. District; Sub-Division; Tehsil; Sub-Tehsil and Block Headquarters along with places with a population of 5000 or more in ordinary areas and 2500 or more in backward and hilly areas are preferred as model points for provision of L.D.P.T. connections. Norms for opening of new branch post offices are given in the enclosed Statement. Other categories of post offices are opened when found justified on the basis of traffic and they are not part of the planned expansion of Postal Network.

Statement

Norms for opening of post offices

(A) Criteria for opening of post offices in rural areas

Post Offices to be opened in rural areas have been classified into two categories :—

(1) Post Offices in normal rural areas;

(2) Post Offices in tribal or backward areas.